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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK		
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In re	:	Chapter 11 Case No.
	:	
LEHMAN BROTHERS HOLDINGS INC., et al.	:	08-13555 (JMP)
	:	
Debtors.	:	(Jointly Administered)
	:	
	:	

## DECLARATION OF JEFFRY CIONGOLI IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF LEHMAN BROTHERS HOLDINGS INC. PURSUANT TO FEDERAL RULE OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE 9019 FOR AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL OF CERTAIN SETTLEMENTS WITH THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, Jeffry Ciongoli declares and says:

- 1. I, Jeffry Ciongoli, as a Managing Director and the Director of Global Tax at Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. ("<u>LBHI</u>"), am responsible for the tax function at LBHI, and, as such, I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this declaration.
- 2. I submit this declaration in support of the Motion of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019 for Authorization and Approval of Certain Settlements with the Internal Revenue Service (the "Motion").
- 3. I began my career at Lehman's tax department twenty-seven years ago as a Tax Analyst. During my twenty-seven years at Lehman, I have been involved in many of the tax

department's functions, including preparation and review of federal and state tax returns, international tax compliance, tax planning, and Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") audit defense.

- 4. From 1994 through 2002, I was a First Vice President and was responsible for Lehman's consolidated federal income tax returns, state and local tax issues, international tax issues, and tax technology. In this capacity, I became familiar with the tax reporting positions on Lehman's consolidated federal income tax returns for the 1997 through 2000 tax years.
- 5. From 2003 through 2008, I was a Senior Vice President with continued responsibility for Lehman's consolidated federal income tax returns, state and local tax issues, and tax technology. In addition, in 2002, I became head of tax compliance, which included managing the IRS's audits of Lehman's tax returns and negotiating the resolution of contested issues with the IRS.
- 6. After LBHI and certain of its subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code on September 15, 2008 (the "Commencement Date"), I became Managing Director and Director of Global Tax, a position that I continue to hold. As Director of Global Tax, I am in charge of LBHI's tax function, which includes responsibility for all of LBHI's domestic and foreign tax reporting, tax planning, and tax disputes with the IRS.
- 7. The Motion relates to LBHI's settlement of tax disputes for the 1997 through 2000 tax years (seven of which are also disputed in certain tax years from 2001 through 2008). I was responsible for the oversight of the IRS's audit of Lehman's consolidated federal income tax returns for the 1997 through 2000 tax years, which began several years prior to the Commencement Date. In 2005, Lehman's tax department engaged McKee Nelson LLP, which has since merged with Bingham McCutchen LLP ("Bingham"), to assist in responding to the IRS's audit of Lehman's tax returns, including the Primary Issues, the Secondary Issues, the

2001-2007 Tax Disputes, and the Other Audits.<sup>1</sup> McKee Nelson was engaged because of its attorneys' expertise in handling significant tax controversy matters for large institutions.

- 8. Prior to the Commencement Date, the IRS proposed various adjustments to the 1997 through 2000 tax years that LBHI disputed. During the 2005 through 2008 timeframe, I worked closely with attorneys at McKee Nelson to administratively resolve these tax disputes. While LBHI settled with the IRS numerous issues relating to the 1997 through 2000 tax years, the Primary Issues and Secondary Issues remained in dispute. During the IRS's audit and throughout the administrative dispute resolution process, I was directly involved with all phases of the administrative process including responding to the IRS's requests for information, evaluating the merits of the IRS's positions, and actively participating in the settlement process.
- 9. In June 2008, in order to procedurally position LBHI to litigate the unsettled Primary Issues and Secondary Issues, LBHI consented to the IRS's adjustments for these issues, paid the resulting tax, penalties, and interest, and reserved its right to seek a refund for the taxes, penalties, and interest paid.
- 10. Since the Commencement Date in September 2008, I have been personally involved with both the development of a settlement process and the efforts to administratively resolve the disputes related to the 1997-2000 Refund Claims, the 2001-2007 Tax Disputes, and the Other Audits. This process involves a detailed administrative review of each of the disputed issues. The review process has three phases: (i) the collection of additional documents and facts from LBHI by the IRS; (ii) the exchange of written submissions by LBHI and the IRS setting forth their factual and legal arguments, and (iii) settlement negotiations that, when necessary, are mediated by the Appeals Division of the IRS over multiple days during which LBHI and IRS

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all defined terms have the meanings provided in the Motion.

Counsel (representing the IRS Exam team) formally present their positions. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York has been involved in the dispute resolution process.

- 11. As with the administrative dispute resolution process that took place in the 2005 through 2008 timeframe, since the Commencement Date I have been directly involved with all phases of the administrative process. I have directly participated in determining LBHI's settlement parameters (in consultation with LBHI's tax controversy advisors) for each of the Primary Issues and Secondary Issues and in all settlement negotiations. In addition, other professionals in the tax department have analyzed these issues and assisted me in evaluating the Settlements.
- 12. LBHI has continued to be advised and represented by lawyers formerly from McKee Nelson and currently at Bingham and they have assisted and advised LBHI in all phases of the administrative review process.
- 13. LBHI has also engaged Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP ("Sutherland"), which also has significant experience with tax controversy matters, to provide an additional level of review and analysis. Sutherland assisted LBHI in assessing the merits and potential hazards of litigation for each of the Primary Issues and has provided LBHI with its judgment regarding those issues.
- LBHI and Bingham have kept the Creditors' Committee apprised of the nature of LBHI's disputes with the IRS and the progress of LBHI's settlement negotiations. Along with attorneys from Bingham, I have personally briefed counsel for the Creditors' Committee on the factual and legal aspects of the Primary Issues and the risks involved with litigating those issues. Based on LBHI and Bingham's briefings and its counsel's review of LBHI's and the IRS's

written submissions, the Creditors' Committee has advised that it concurs that the Settlements for the two Primary Issues are fair, equitable, and in the best interest of LBHI.

- 15. From June through December 2009, LBHI and the IRS engaged in the administrative process we developed to attempt to resolve the 1997-2000 Refund Claims as described in Paragraphs 10 & 11 of this Declaration. As a result of these negotiations, LBHI and the IRS have settled, subject to the review of this Court and the Joint Committee, two of the Primary Issues.
- 16. LBHI and the IRS have also settled, subject to the review of this Court and the Joint Committee, four of the Secondary Issues. LBHI and the IRS agreed to consider the remaining Secondary Issue, which is also disputed in the 2001 through 2005 tax years, during the consideration of the 2001-2007 Tax Disputes.<sup>2</sup>
- 17. Thus, of the eight disputed issues in the 1997-2000 Refund Claims, LBHI has resolved six issues, intends to litigate one Primary Issue, and will continue settlement discussions for the one remaining Secondary Issue.
- 18. Based on an assessment of the merits and potential hazards of litigation, I have concluded in my capacity as Managing Director and Director of Global Tax for LBHI that the Settlements are fair, equitable, and in the best interests of LBHI, its estate, and its creditors. I have reached this conclusion after conducting my own review of the issues with the assistance of tax professionals in the tax department and in consultation with LBHI's primary tax controversy counsel (Bingham) and its advisory tax controversy counsel (Sutherland).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> LBHI and the IRS have already begun the same process to address the issues arising in the 2001-2007 Tax Disputes and the Other Audits. LBHI and the IRS expect to complete settlement negotiations for all remaining issues by August 31, 2010.

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19. In concluding that the Settlements are fair, equitable, and in the best interests of LBHI, its estate, and its creditors, I balanced a variety of factors, including applicable legal precedent, the favorable and unfavorable aspects of the factual record, the costs of litigation, the risk that LBHI would not prevail in litigation, and the value of the Settlements to LBHI.

20. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: March 23, 2010

/s/ JEFFRY CIONGOLI JEFFRY CIONGOLI